

asked for the rare opportunity to purchase the Whitesburg operations, so he could raise his family at home in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The company accepted his offer and Childers Oil was born. Today, they employ over 1,000 people, including its full-service 24-hour convenience stores and affiliated companies.

The Childers Oil Company has always been a family venture with his wife, Peggy, leading kitchen recipes and retail operations. Their two daughters and son-in-law now play key roles in the company, and the third generation is coming on strong with a full understanding of their grandfather's business philosophy. This family-owned and operated business is also a wonderful steward of the communities they serve, partnering with numerous civic and charitable organizations every year, reinvesting in the region they love so much.

In addition to Don's work in the oil industry, he has tirelessly worked to bring additional jobs and opportunities to the region through his work on the Letcher County Planning Commission, which he established with a group of community leaders 17 years ago. They have patiently advocated for a federal corrections facility to be built in Letcher County to create hundreds of good-paying jobs in Eastern Kentucky. Knowing the additional opportunities that could arise with a new prison, Don also launched the Letcher County Airport Board to meet aviation needs in our mountainous terrain. He is a bold, visionary leader who has inspired many others to think out-of-the-box for innovative industry goals in Eastern Kentucky. Don is also a man of great faith, having dedicated more than 55 years as a member of the Whitesburg First Baptist Church.

I count it a great honor to celebrate Don Childers and his many accomplishments on his 90th birthday. I hope this year is filled with many more blessings for Don and his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUBY DE VERA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I share that the city of Los Angeles lost another angel earlier this year. Her name was Ruby de Vera and she was a community leader, an activist, and a fierce advocate in Northeast Los Angeles.

Ruby was a remarkable person who worked tirelessly as a champion in both City Hall and out in the community. She was a role model and a true public servant who epitomized the best qualities including courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Ruby's lifetime of dedication and service will be remembered and greatly missed by all whom she encountered and all those who were impacted by her leadership. May it bring comfort to her family, friends, and loved ones that so many are celebrating the life she led and praying for them at this time.

CHRISTIAN WOLFE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, ascending to the rank of Eagle Scout is an accomplishment unlike any other. Those involved with the Boy Scouts of America devote their lives to the organization's foundational principles of ethics and morals. They embody what it means to be "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." However, their drive and motivation extend far beyond the organization's principles and into the classroom and community. What Christian has accomplished is a culmination of hard work and perseverance. He and his family should be incredibly proud. Make no mistake, his accomplishment serves as a testament to his grandfather's influence in his life. Congratulations on this stellar achievement. God Bless Christian and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MIKE RUMFIELD, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the timehonored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Private First Class Mike Rumfield of McKinney, Texas.

Originally from Santa Ana, California, Private First Class Michael Rumfield proudly served in the United States Army for which he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Air Assault Badge.

Following his time in service, Mike began a dedicated 20-year career in law enforcement holding positions as a Corrections Officer, Corrections Sergeant, Field Training Officer, SWAT member and Team Leader, Deputy Sheriff, and his current role as Collin County Chief Deputy Constable for Precinct 4. As a Chief Deputy Constable, Rumfield is dedicated to serving the citizens of Collin County in a fair and impartial manner to execute all court orders and to promote a safe and secure environment with the highest level of integrity.

In 2016, along with his wife, Lailani, Rumfield founded the America's Defenders

Foundation which supports disabled veterans that have answered the call of duty to the United States and who have defended our nation's values and families. The organization also maintains an intense motivation to support our nation's law enforcement officers. Their annual Thin Blue Line Ball provides hundreds of law enforcement officers and their spouses an evening of entertainment while raising funds to support their efforts. Additionally, as past President of the Collin County Deputies Association, Mike advocated for Collin County public safety officers while supporting members in times of need.

Chief Deputy Constable Mike Rumfield continues to make a difference in the lives of those whom he serves, and we recognize him for his efforts to support our military, veterans, and first responders.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Private First Class Rumfield for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF J.D. GROM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and leadership of J.D. Grom, Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition.

J.D. began his tenure as Executive Director when I was Chair of the New Dems. I was immediately impressed by his work ethic, vision, and expertise—qualities that were obvious to everyone who had the opportunity to interact with J.D. over the years. I asked him to do a lot in terms of getting to know the members of the Coalition—what they care about and what's important to the districts they represent—and he stepped up, developing an exceptional understanding of the members and their priorities.

J.D. recently left Capitol Hill to join the Biden Administration in the Department of Commerce, and I know I speak for all members of the New Democrat Coalition when I say he'll be sorely missed.

New Dems have seen so much positive change and growth over the past eight years with J.D. at the helm. Made up of 95 members, New Dems play a critical role in Congress not only in advocating for pragmatic, pro-growth policies, but also in working to bridge the partisan divide and lower the temperature in Washington.

New Dems are focused on moving our nation forward by tackling some of our toughest challenges and delivering results for the American people. J.D.'s outstanding leadership has made these efforts possible.

After working for his hometown Representative, Melissa Bean of Illinois, the Department of Treasury, and four different New Dem Chairs, J.D. has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service that will carry him far in

his new role. I want to thank J.D. for all his hard work as Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition, and I wish him nothing but the best in all his future endeavors.

**CONDEMNING RELIGIOUS
PERSECUTION IN BANGLADESH**

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support of victims of violent religious persecution in Bangladesh. I have been informed that currently, about 14 million people are facing religious persecution solely for their Hindu beliefs. There is documented numerous attacks on Hindu temples, businesses and homes. People have been brutally killed and raped due to their religious beliefs. I strongly condemn the violent and immoral actions of those who harm others simply because they have a different religion.

Madam Speaker, the persecution of religious minorities will not end without strong action by the government, in this case Bangladesh. All governments are duty bound to protect their citizens and promote the freedom to worship. I call upon the government to make every effort to end the violence and protect religious minority populations within its borders. In order to protect its people, the government should restrict extremist groups that exert any violent influence over the country's political, social, legal, and religious affairs. Only then can peace and religious freedom be restored in Bangladesh.

The United States and Bangladesh have a friendship with deep ties among and between its people. Like Bangladesh, the United States has religious minorities. To truly flourish and prosper, the rights of all people to be secure in their property and their lives must be ensured. I encourage the government of Bangladesh and offer the full support of the United States in helping it protect its religious minorities. May God bless both our nations.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MARIAM C. NOLAND FROM THE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mariam C. Noland on the occasion of her retirement from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan after over thirty-five years of service as President. Her significant contributions to our southeast Michigan community are worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Harvard University and Case Western Reserve University, Ms. Noland was an experienced leader in the nonprofit and community foundation field before arriving in Michigan. Prior to being named as the founding President of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in 1985, she worked at the Cleveland Foundation and the Saint Paul

Foundation, as well as at colleges in Ohio and North Carolina.

As President of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, she helped create and fund countless programs that benefit our community. These include the GreenWays Initiative, the New Economy Initiative, the HOPE Fund, Southeast Michigan Healthy Youth, Healthy Seniors, and the Family Development Program. These programs uplift diverse populations, invest in environmental initiatives, promote community health, advance justice and policing reform, and help our local economy thrive. Her work to secure endowments in perpetuity for many of the Foundation's programs will help transform southeast Michigan, and the impact of her work will be felt for years to come. During her tenure, the Community Foundation's assets have grown to more than \$1.1 billion, placing the Foundation in the top 25 nationally.

Ms. Noland currently serves on the Board of Trustees at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, D.C., the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, and the Downtown Detroit Partnership. She is the recipient of the Special Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Philanthropy, has been named Michigania of the Year by the Detroit News, and has an award in her name at the Community Foundation—the Mariam C. Noland Award for Non-profit Leadership that recognizes a nonprofit president or CEO in Southeast Michigan who is an exceptional leader in their organization and beyond. She resides in Grosse Pointe Farms with her husband James.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mariam C. Noland for an exemplary nearly four decades of dedicated service to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. I join with Mariam's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to her in retirement.

GLORIA EZZIE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, birthdays are a celebration of a life well-lived, which we share with family and friends. This is especially true for Gloria. We celebrate her 100 years of life, surrounded by family, friends, 9 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. She has spent 54 wonderful years in beautiful Brigantine with husband, Michael, where she raised her family, and where she has been an active member of the community. It is an honor to be her Representative, and it is my honor to wish her the happiest of birthdays, with many more to come. I hope Gloria enjoys her 100th birthday, and go Phillies. God Bless Gloria, and God Bless America.

**RECOGNIZING 1ST LIEUTENANT
GLEE PITNEY, RECIPIENT OF
TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION**

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is 1st Lieutenant Glee Pitney of Dallas, Texas.

Glee Pitney graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1954 whereupon he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Artillery in the United States Army. The newly married Glee was soon assigned duty at Fort Sill, Oklahoma before being transferred with the Far East Command in South Korea. Pitney was assigned to the 11th Field Artillery Battalion and the 3rd Engineer Battalion as an assistant division fire marshal overseeing four fire stations.

For his service, Lieutenant Pitney was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

Following his time in the military, Mr. Pitney returned to Ohio and entered the family trucking business until his retirement. In 1997, Glee relocated to Dallas where he became heavily involved in his community as a founding member of his homeowners association and as an active member of Volunteers in Patrol for which he received recognition from the Dallas Police Department.

In 2006, Glee and his wife moved to Highland Springs Retirement Community where he earned a reputation as an extraordinarily active community leader. His civic involvement includes serving as the first Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Services Committee, liaison to the Transportation Department, as a member of the Resident Advisory Council, and Chairman of Government Affairs Group. His commitment to our veterans remains strong as evidenced by his role as the founding Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Group, which today includes nearly 400 veterans, wives and widows. Mr. Pitney's efforts were instrumental in the creation of the Highland Springs Veterans Memorial Park and he is a strong supporter of the DFW Honor Flight where he has assisted almost fifty Highland Springs residents with travel to our Nation's Capitol.

Lieutenant Glee Pitney is a stellar example of a servant leader who embodies patriotism and a steadfast commitment to his community.

Today, a grateful Nation thanks Lieutenant Pitney for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than